STAT

MEMORANDUM FOR: The DCI

VIA: Mr. Knoche

1. This memorandum is for <u>information</u> <u>only</u>.

2. Mrs. Davidson in the office of Bill Kobin, American Broadcasting Company, New York, (Susquehanna 7-5000, ext. 8455) by telephone quotes the following from the transcript of John Scali's interview with Secretary Martin which was part of last night's 10:30 p.m. TV program of Howard K. Smith from New York.

"John Scali: 'Senator Keating claims to have information that the number of Soviet troops and Soviet military strength in Cuba is now about 10 times what it was last July. Does this jibe with your facts?'

"Martin: 'I don't think our figures for last July are accurate enough for me to be sure that it would be ten times, but I think this is within the range of possibility, yes.'"

"Scali: 'How good is American intelligence in Cuba now? Immediately after the missile crisis, the administration told reporters that the Soviets had 7 to 8,000 troops in Cuba and later this figure was revised to 17 or 18,000. How does this account for your discrepancy?'

"Martin: 'Well, I think that there were various means--ships and air-- by which additional troops could have come in over the past period. I think it is probable that we underestimated to some extent the number that were there at the time of the crisis. The ships carried more than we had guessed. I think our intelligence about major installations of any size or consequence that can be pictured from the air (and our ability to do this is quite good), we do have information about the specifics of the numbers of people and attitudes of Cubans, for example, is much more dif- ficult to come by in accurate form. We do feel that the variety of collateral evidence which suggests that the figure is as you say, 16 to 17,000 now, rather than the earlier estimate.'"

FEB 1 2 05 bH .23

STAT

Stanley J. Grogan
Assistant to the Director

cc: Executive Director

4 FEB 1963